

October 19, 1915

JOHN W. BLAIR, SR.

It is seldom that an editor is called upon to write the life and work of a man who has seen a full century of the activities of this world, but such is the case in this instance. James W. Blair, Sr., passed away at his home north of Groton this morning at the age of one hundred years and five days, old age being the cause. It was only last week that many publications in this section published a story on the occasion of his birthday. While he has not been in good health for some time, it was not expected that he would so soon pass away at that time.

John W. Blair, Sr., was born in Londonderry county, Ireland, March 16, 1816. He moved to the United States at the age of eighteen. He went to Westby, Wis., during the early-day inrush of settlers to that portion of the state. A true pioneer, he again moved to South Dakota when this section was but just opening up and was among the early pioneers here, all of his children having come to this section and filed on homesteads with but one exception. He also filed here. He lived and came to the end of his long life on the old homestead, four and one-half miles northeast of Groton. The last few weeks of his life were filled with intense physical suffering. Mr. Blair lived and died a practical christian, maintaining until the end a firm and abiding belief in God's munificent providence in eternity for those who believe in Him.

Mrs. Blair preceded him to the grave two years ago.

Mr. Blair leaves to mourn his loss, three sons, John, Will and Tom; three daughters, Mrs. Larson, Westby, Wis.; Mrs. J. Harris, and Mrs. Wilson, besides grandchildren and great grandchildren.